

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
U.S. Secretary of State  
2201 C Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

The recently enacted Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act requires that you submit to Congress a determination as to whether North Korea meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism. As you review this determination and continue to evaluate policy options to address the threat posed by North Korea, we urge you to consider the totality of North Korea's actions – including detainment, detention and treatment of American citizens and continued illicit relationships with unfriendly nations.

North Korea was first designated a state sponsor of terrorism on January 20, 1988. This designation occurred due to the regime's support of international terrorism and specifically the bombing of Korean Air flight 858 in November 1987. In 2008, the designation of North Korea was rescinded in conjunction with commitments by North Korea to limit its nuclear programs.

Over the past nine years, the North Korean regime has consistently shown a disregard for international norms and agreements, reenergizing its pursuit of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. The regime has also continued weapons sales and the transfer of sensitive technologies to other state sponsors of terrorism to include Iran, Syria, and Sudan. Additionally, the North Korean government has built a long record of violent and destabilizing acts domestically and internationally, to include its abhorrent treatment of American citizens, and its alleged assassination of Kim Jong-nam, orchestrated by North Korean actors within Malaysia, in February 2017. Furthermore, the State Department has continued to designate North Korea as a country, "not cooperating fully" with U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

Through previous rounds of negotiations over its nuclear program prior to 2008, the North Korean government made its removal from the state sponsor of terrorism lists a top priority. Given its continued actions since losing this designation and our shared desire to continue to exert peaceful pressure on the regime, we urge you to consider these matters in your decision.

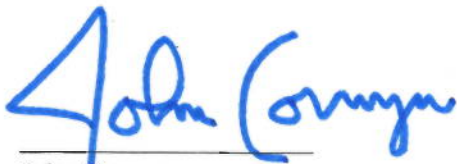
Sincerely,



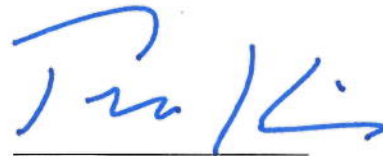
Rob Portman  
U.S. Senator



Mark R. Warner  
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn  
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine  
U.S. Senator



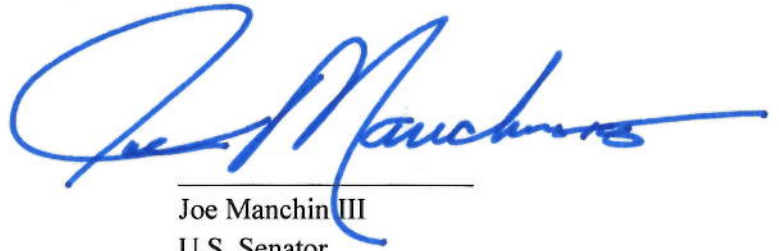
Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator



Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senator



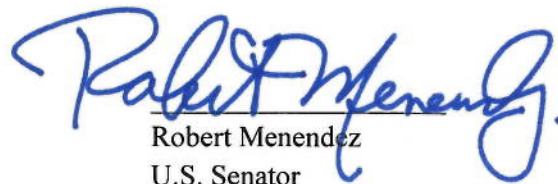
Cory Gardner  
U.S. Senator



Joe Manchin III  
U.S. Senator



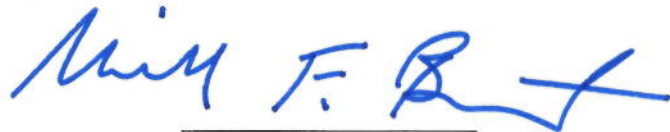
Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



Robert Menendez  
U.S. Senator



Dan Sullivan  
U.S. Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
U.S. Senator